Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

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O 212214Z AUG 73 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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FOR CLAY BLACK

E.O. 11652

TAGS: ETRD, UNCTAD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD, THIRTEENTH SESSION, GENEVA, AUGUST 21

AGENDA ITEM 4 - DIVERSIFICATION; AMENDED GUIDANCE;

AND AGENDA ITEM 6 A - COMMODITY PROBLEMS AND POLICIES; AMENDED GUIDANCE

1. THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS HAVE NOT BEEN FULLY CLEARED BUT ARE BEING PROVIDED IN THE INTEREST OF THE URGENCY OF THE SITUATION. CLEARANCES WILL BE TELEPHONED TOMORROW.

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2. FOLLOWING CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE IN GUIDANCE FOR AGENDA

ITEM 4 (RESOLUTION ON DIVERSIFICATION AND ALTERNATIVE TEXT) WHICH WAS HAND-CARRIED TO GENEVA.

- 3. DISCUSSION: ADD AS SECOND PARAGRAPH, "FOR THE DELEGATION'S INFORMATION, THE RECENT SITUATION OF WORLD SHORTAGES IN MANY AGRICULTURAL AND MINERAL PRIMARY COMMODITIES, WILL PROBABLY REDUCE INTEREST IN THE ISSUE OF DIVERSIFICATION, WHICH IS GENERALLY PERCEIVED AS A DEVICE FOR DEALING WITH THE PROBLEMS OF SURPLUSES, AS WELL AS MARKET INSTABILITY. THIS CIRCUMSTANCE MAY HELP IN AVOIDING PRECIPITATE ACTION ON THE RESOLUTION AT THE PRESENT MEETING."
 4. THE FOLLOWING CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE IN GUIDANCE FOR AGENDA ITEM 6 (A), "COMMODITY PROBLEMS AND POLICIES, INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMODITIES, SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION AND OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE BOARD AND TO THE COMMITTEE ON COMMODITIES ON ITS EIGHTH SESSION."
- 5. U.S. POSITION: PARA 4: DELETE PARA AND REPLACE WITH "THE U.S. DEL SHOULD DETERMINE, PREFERABLY PRIVATELY, THE SECRETARIAT'S THINKING REGARDING "THE SCOPE OF SUBSEQUENT INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATIONS." IF BY THIS IT IS MEANT THAT CONSULTATIONS ON ADDITIONAL COMMODITIES BEYOND THESE LISTED IN THE ANNEX OF THE SYG'S LETTER OF JULY L8, 1973, ARE BEING CONSIDERED, THE U.S. DEL SHOULD RESERVE ITS POSITION."
- 6. DISCUSSION: PARA 3: ADD AS LAST TWO SENTENCES, "HOW-EVER, IT IS THE U.S. VIEW THAT THESE CONSULTATIONS SHOULD NOT DELIBERATELY SET UP A SECOND PHASE OF DISCUSSIONS.
 ATTEMPTS SHOULD BE MADE TO COMPLETE THESE CONSULTATIONS IN ONE MEETING AND A SECOND PHASE OF DISCUSSIONS SHOULD TAKE PLACE ONLY IF THE INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATION GROUP DETERMINES THAT A SECOND PHASE IS NECESSARY."
- 7. REGARDING THE REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE BOARDOF US DEL SHOULD BE GUIDED BY THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS.
- 8. THE U.S. DEL MAY NOTE THE REPORT BUT SHOULD POINT OUT THAT THE REPORT CAME SO LATE THAT THE DELEGATION SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO COMMENT AT LENGTH ON THE REPORT. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE REPORT SHOULD BE GIVEN FURTHER CONSIDERATION AT THE COMMITTEE ON COMMODITIES, EIGHTH SESSION.

9. REGARDING REPORT'S DISCUSSION OF EXCHANGE RATE INSTA-BILITY AND PROPOSALS FOR ADJUSTMENTS IN COMMODITY AGREE-MENTS TO REFLECT EXCHANGE RATE MOVEMENTS, THE U.S. DEL MAY NOTE THAT SEVERAL COMMODITY AGREEMENTS PERMIT, AL-THOUGH NOT MANDATORY, ADJUSTMENTS FOR EXCHANGE RATE CHAN- GES. THE U.S. DOES OBJECT TO AUTOMATIC TRIGGER CLAUSES WHICH WOULD MAKE SUCH ADJUSTMENTS.

10. IF IT IS NECESSARY TO RESPOND TO REPORT'S PROPOSALS FOR STUDIES OF IMPLICATIONS OF EXCHANGE RATE INSTABILITY AND INFLATION FOR THE LDCS, THE US DEL SHOULD

REFER ANY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN TO COMMITTEE ON COMMODITIES. AS A FALL BACK POSITION, THE US DEL CAN AGREE TO SUCH STUDIES PROVIDED THAT THE STUDIES AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF SUCH STUDIES DO NOT PRESENT BIASED DISCUSSIONS OF THE TOPICS AND DO NOT PREJUDGE THE OUTCOME.

11. CONCERNING PARA 27:THE U.S DOES NOT OBJECT TO THE CONSIDERATION OF SEMI PROCESSED COMMODITIES IN THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMODITY CONSULTATIONS.

12. CONCERNING EXCHANGE RATE INSTABILITY, MARKET PRICES OF COMMODITIES TYPICALLY DO REACT TO CHANGES IN EXCHANGE RATE, BUT SUCH CHANGES ARE ONLY ONE OF MANY FACTORS IN-FLUENCING MARKET PRICES AT ANY TIME. ALTHOUGH HARD TO QUANTIFY, EFFECTS OF EXCHANGE RATE CHANGES ON EARNING AND IMPORT COSTS WILL ALSO VARY AS AMONG INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES; THUS, IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO ARRIVE AT SINGLE RATE OF ADJUSTMENT APPROPRIATE TO ALL COUNTRIES EXPORTING A PARTICULAR PRODUCT. ANY AGREED INCREASE IN PRICE PAID TO EXPORTERS OR USED TO TRIGGER CONTROL ME-CHANISMS OF AN AGREEMENT WOULD BE ARBITRARY AND INVOLVE RISK OF MARKET DISLOCATIONS. LDC PROPOSALS FOR EXCHANGE RATE ADJUSTMENTS IN COMMODITY AGREEMENTS ARE AKIN TO THEIR REQUEST TO BE COMPENSATED FOR LOSSES IN PURCHASING POWER OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES. THE U.S. DOES NOT GO AS FAR AS OTHER GOVERNMENTS IN SUPPORTING SUCH LOSS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF PURCHASING POWER. ROGERS

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